

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 04022 231445Z

53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 /020 W

----- 091493

P R 231408Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6048

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

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USIAC

USIA FOR INA; INFO IOP: IPS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SOPN, KU

SUBJECT: NEW GOVERNMENT DECREE ON DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLICATIONS
BY DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS

SUMMARY: NEW DECREE REGULATING DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATTER
BY DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS CAME INTO EFFECT AUGUST 22. NEW REGULATIONS

AIMED PRIMARILY AT CONTROLLING INTER-ARAB RECRIMINATIONS AND USE
OF KUWAIT AS VERBAL BATTLEGROUND. EMBASSY DOES NOT EXPECT NEW RULES
TO HAMPER USIS ACTIVITIES IN LONG RUN, BUT MAY CREATE SOME PRO-
CEDURAL DIFFICULTIES AT OUTSET.

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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 04022 231445Z

1. A NEW GOK DECREE GOVERNING ISSUANCE AND DISTRIBUTION

"BULLETINS AND PUBLICATIONS" BY "DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND CONSULATES" WAS PUBLISHED IN OFFICIAL GAZETTE ON AUGUST 22.

2. NEW DECREE REPLACES ONE ISSUED 1968. ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCE TWOFOLD: (A) NEW RULES PLACE GREATER EMPHASIS UPON CONTENT AND "NON-UTILIZATION OF BULLETINS AND PUBLICATIONS AS A TOOL FOR POLITICAL OR PARTISAN ATTACK ON ANY ARAB OR FRIENDLY STATE REGARDLESS OF JUSTIFICATION." (B) NEW DECREE SPECIFIES DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS MAY NOT DISTRIBUTE ANY BULLETIN OR PUBLICATION UNLESS FIVE COPIES OF EACH ISSUE OF SUCH BULLETIN OR PUBLICATION ARE DEPOSITED WITH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FIVE COPIES WITH THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL IS OBTAINED FOR DISTRIBUTING EACH ISSUE FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION VIA THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS."

3. GUIDELINES FOR ACCEPTABLE PUBLICATION CONTENT ARE STATED IN DECREE AS FOLLOWS:
(UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION)

QUOTE: "WHEN ISSUING OR DISTRIBUTING BULLETINS OR PUBLICATIONS . . . THE FOLLOWING SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION: (A) THE CONTENTS OF BULLETINS OR PUBLICATIONS SHOULD BE LIMITED TO SUBJECTS DIRECTED AT INFORMING ABOUT ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL CONDITIONS OF THE COUNTRY OF THE MISSION OR ORGANIZATIONS, STATEMENTS BY ITS OFFICIALS AND OFFICIAL STATEMENTS ISSUED BY IT; (B) NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRY OR CRITICISM OF ITS SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT OR JEOPARDIZING ITS SAFETY OR SECURITY; (C) NON-CRITICISM OR JEOPARDIZING THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT AND THE ARAB POINT OF VIEW AND ITS HIGHER INTERESTS; (D) NON-UTILIZATION OF BULLETINS OR PUBLICATIONS AS A TOOL FOR POLITICAL OR PARTISAN ATTACK ON ANY ARAB OR FRIENDLY STATE REGARDLESS OF JUSTIFICATION; (E) SPEECHES OR STATEMENTS BY OFFICIALS IN THE COUNTRY OF MISSION OR ORGANIZATION, OR OFFICIAL STATEMENTS, ISSUED BY THEM FOR PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY OF THE RESTRICTIONS STIPULATED IN PARAGRAPHS O, C AND D OF THIS ARTICLE." UNQUOTE

COMMENT: ITEMS B AND C ARE ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED FROM RELEVANT 1968 DECREE. A AND D ARE NEW POLICY STATEMENTS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 KUWAIT 04022 231445Z

END COMMENT.

4. NEW REQUIREMENT FOR "PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL" COULD PRESENT AN OBSTACLE TO EXPEDITIOUS DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLICATIONS. PROCEDURES FOR CLEARANCE HAVE NOT BEEN FULLY THOUGHT OUT BY MININFO. PAO HAS DISCUSSED THESE FACTORS WITH BOTH LEGAL ADVISOR AND PRESS SUPERVISOR AT MININFO. LATTER WILL BE PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANIZING CLEARANCE PROCEDURES. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY ASSURED

BY BOTH MEN THAT NO DELAYS WILL BE ENCOUNTERED BY EMBASSY IN OBTAINING CLEARANCES, AND PRESS SUPERVISOR FORESEES PROCEDURE TAKING "MATTER OF MINUTES," EMBASSY DUBIOUS. TOGETHER WITH BRITISH, WE PLAN ADOPT WAIT AND SEE ATTITUDE FOR TIME BEING.

5. EMBASSY ALSO ASSURED BY MININFO OFFICIALS THAT NEW DECREE AIMED ESSENTIALLY AT CONTROLLING INTER-ARAB FRICTION AND THEIR USE OF KUWAIT AS BATTLEGROUND FOR MUTUAL RECRIMINATIONS. EMBASSY HAS BEEN TOLD THAT INTER-ARAB SQUABBLING WAS CATALYST FOR ISSUANCE NEW DECREE. THIS CONFIRMED BY REPORTS IN LOCAL PRESS WHICH UNANIMOUSLY HAILS NEW REGULATIONS. AL QABAS CALLS DECREE "A WISE DECISION . . . BECAUSE SOME ARAB EMBASSIES HAVE BEEN ISSUING BULLETINS CONTAINING ATTACKS AND CRITICISMS AGAINST OTHER ARAB STATES." ARTICLE FURTHER STATES THAT "ALL ARAB EMBASSIES MUST UNDERSTAND THIS IMPARTIAL KUWAITI DECISION BECAUSE KUWAIT IS CONCERNED OVER THE HIGHER ARAB INTEREST AND EASING OF ARAB DISPUTES FOR RESTORATION OF ARAB SOLIDARITY."

6. ALTHOUGH NEW DECREE AIMED AT ARABS, WESTERN NATIONS NOT SPARED FROM SNIPING CRITICISMS. DARA KADVA, SENIOR EDITOR OF THE KUWAIT TIMES, OBSERVES "IT WAS GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD BY MOST THAT THE DECREE WAS AIMED MORE AT THE ARAB AND 'BIG POWER' MISSIONS THAN AT VAST NUMBER OF OTHER SMALLER AND FRIENDLY COUNTRIES." KADVA, IN USUAL IRRESPONSIBLE FASHION, SAYS "BIG POWER MISSIONS ARE SAID TO BE BITTER BECAUSE THE DECREE SCUTTLES THEIR CAPACITY FOR INTRIGUES."

7. COMMENT: EMBASSY NOT UNDULY CONCERNED OVER LATEST DECREE AND WILL APPLY FOR RENEWED LICENSE" FROM MFA TO CONTINUE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 KUWAIT 04022 231445Z

ISSUE "PUBLICATIONS" AS SOON AS WE ARE NOTIFIED OFFICIALLY BY MFA THAT NEW DECREE IS IN EFFECT. WE ANTICIPATE NO DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING PERMISSION TO CONTINUE USIS ACTIVITIES BUT EXPECT IT MAY TAKE TIME TO IRON OUT PROCEDURES FOR EXPEDITING DISTRIBUTION. WE HOPE THAT "PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL" CLAUSE WILL NOT BE AN OBSTACLE IN LONG RUN, BUT IT MAY PROVE CUMBERSOME UNTIL EFFECTIVE CLEARANCE MACHINERY IS ESTABLISHED AT MFA AND MININFO. IF PROCEDURES PROVE TO BE MAJOR OBSTACLE, EMBASSY IS PREPARED TO RAISE MATTER AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL IN ORDER SEEK TO OBTAIN ANY NECESSARY IMPROVEMENT.

8. FULL TEXT OF NEW DECREE BEING POUCHED.
MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, PUBLICATIONS, DOCUMENTS, POLICIES, TEXT, INFORMATION CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760321-0698
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760829/aaaaazcq.tel
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: NEW GOVERNMENT DECREE ON DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLICATIONS BY DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS SUMMARY: NEW DECREE REGULATING DISTRIBUTION OF PRI
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To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006